

MINUTES
Conservation Commission Regular Meeting
November 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
ROOM 135, Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT 06804

1. Call to Order

Chair J. Bronn called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Chair J. Bronn, Regular Member C. DePoi, Regular Member M. Carmody and Regular Member T. Cappiello

Also Present: Conservation Director A. Dew and Recording Secretary A. Kennedy

Absent: Vice Chair J. Blick, Alternate Member M. Dew, Alternate Member R. Blessey, Alternate Member A. Schutte-Bell and Ex Officio S. Slater

All Members will be voting members tonight.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **October 6, 2021**

Chairman J. Bronn made a motion to approve the minutes from October 6, 2021. M. Carmody seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. Guest and Public Comment

- 4. Correspondence** - Chairman J. Bronn said James Docktor, Superintendent of Roads, wrote to Mary Knox on November 3, 2021 regarding the sighting of a coyote during daytime hours at Happy Landings. WEO A. Dew suggested putting a warning on the Town website.

- 5. Treasurer's Report** - No discussion.

6. Old Business

- A. Gurski Homestead Status** - Chairman J. Bronn said he know A. Schutte-Bell has been doing a lot of work on this, and she sent an email to the Commission members. M. Carmody noted that A. Schutte-Bell sent her the information in hard copy and she really appreciated that. WEO A. Dew discussed the easements on Gurski Homestead, noting she contacted SHPO and read aloud the email she received from them.

WEO A. Dew said she is getting two estimates for work in the Rental House bathroom. She said in the mean-time, P. McPadden did put duct tape and plastic around the tile that are coming down.

WEO A. Dew said the Capital Project Budget is due and she put in for Conservation a request for \$15,000 for the possible Old Bridge donation and \$100,000 for the possible Dunsinane property, in conjunction with Northwest CT Land Conservancy. She said she also put in a request for \$250,000 for the Gurski Barn.

WEO A. Dew discussed next steps for the Gurski Barn, as per her discussion with Julian, the purchasing agent.

B. Mowing Schedule - Chair J. Bronn said Happy Landings and Ericson were both mowed.

C. Maintenance Concerns: Williams Park, Old Bridge, Lillinonah Woods - Chair J. Bronn said the Old Bridge concern was about the kiosk and the same with Lillinonah Woods. He said for Williams Park the concern was about repairing some boards in a bridge. Chair J. Bronn said he did speak to Christopher Brooks' mother, who is the Eagle Scout doing his project there, and she said he has been doing work there. Chairman J. Bronn also read aloud a message from Julie regarding the kiosk at Lillinonah, and the possibility of a girl scout troop helping with that project.

D. Pollinator Pathway at Still River - Chair J. Bronn said after doing a little more research he has discovered that writing an ordinance involves a lot of legal writing. *T. Schaeffer was present.* She said she spoke with A. Schutte-Bell regarding the pollinator pathway. She said A. Schutte-Bell had spoken with L. Memoli and he was fine with it being at Ericson. T. Schaeffer said she was going to come up with a plan for the Pollinator Pathway at Ericson. T. Cappiello discussed the issue of herbicide use at Ericson, specifically for the poison hemlock, and whether that would be problematic if they established a Pollinator Pathway at that location.

7. New Business

A. Invasive Plant Removal Project - *T. Schaeffer was present.* T. Schaeffer distributed information on invasive plants that are prolific in the Williams Park area, as well as an initial plan on what needs to be done. She also provided a list from UCONN of CT Native Shrubs that can be planted in place of what is removed. She discussed the process involved in the removal of napweed, and other invasive plants. Chair J. Bronn noted this plan should be considered for implementation in the spring.

Chair J. Bronn asked about the status of the situation with the Lantern Fly. WEO A. Dew confirmed she put information on the Town website, as discussed. T. Schaeffer said it is close by, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, but has not yet been sited in CT.

B. 2022 DRAFT Meeting Schedule for Approval - The Commission reviewed the proposed meeting schedule.

Chairman J. Bronn made a motion to approve the 2022 DRAFT Meeting Schedule. M. Carmody seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- 8. Tabled Items** - Chair J. Bronn said he purchased the supplies for the barn quilt and Bridget has been working on it.
C. DePoi noted she and her husband got rid of the tree at Ericson.

9. Adjournment

Chairman J. Bronn made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. M. Carmody seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.